

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An electronic guide system, comprising:
 - a fixed-location beacon associated with a plurality of landmarks to transmit electronic signals containing descriptive information of each of the landmarks;
 - a client device physically separated from the beacon to receive the electronic signals containing the descriptive information of each of the landmarks when placed by a user within a transmission range of the beacon;
 - a viewing direction sensor that determines viewing direction of the user to cause the client device to provide the user with the descriptive information of one of the landmarks at which the user is looking.
2. (Original) The electronic guide system of claim 1, wherein the fixed-location beacon further comprises
 - a landmark data store that stores the descriptive information of each of the landmarks;
 - a transmitter coupled to the landmark data store to transmit the electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the landmarks.
3. (Original) The electronic guide system of claim 2, wherein the transmitter transmits the electronic signals periodically, constantly, or only when activated by external stimulus.
4. (Original) The electronic guide system of claim 2, wherein the fixed-location beacon further comprises an updating module that updates the descriptive information stored in the landmark data store.

5. (Original) The electronic guide system of claim 2, wherein the transmitter transmits the electronic signals wirelessly or through wire-line, wherein if the transmitter transmits the electronic signals through wire-line, the client device is regarded to be within the transmission range of the beacon when the client device is coupled to the transmitter of the beacon by the wire-line.

6. (Original) The electronic guide system of claim 1, wherein the beacon transmits the descriptive information of the landmarks using multiple communication channels, each channel for transmitting the electronic signals of the descriptive information of one of the landmarks.

7. (Original) The electronic guide system of claim 1, wherein the beacon multiplexes the electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the landmarks such that the descriptive information of the landmarks is transmitted by a single communication channel.

8. (Original) The electronic guide system of claim 1, wherein the viewing direction sensor is located within the client device.

9.-27. (Canceled).

28. (New) The electronic guide system of claim 1, wherein the viewing direction sensor further determines the direction of the user to cause the client device to provide the user with a relative direction of one of the landmarks at which the user desires to look.

29. (New) The electronic guide system of claim 1, wherein the viewing direction sensor further determines the direction of the user to cause the client device to provide the user with a relative direction of the fixed-location beacon.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the filing of a Continuation Application of Application Serial No. 10/060,571. In the last action on the merits in the parent case, Office Action dated May 22, 2003, the Examiner: (1) rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,250,955 (Major et al.); and (2) allowed claims 9-27.

Applicants file this continuation application and Preliminary Amendment to prosecute the claims 1-8, the non-allowed claims of the parent case. Thus, with this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 9-27 in favor of those same claims in the parent case, and present new claims 28-29. Applicants believe the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully request reconsideration.

I. AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

The amendments presented to the specification are merely to document this application's relationship to the parent application, Serial No. 10/060,571. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is submitted thereby.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS

The Examiner previously rejected claim 1 as allegedly anticipated by Major et al. Claim 1 is directed to a electronic guide system that comprises, among other features, a fixed-location beacon associated with a plurality of landmarks to transmit electronic signals containing descriptive information of each of the landmarks; and a viewing direction sensor that determines viewing direction of the user to cause the client device to provide the user with the descriptive information of one of the landmarks at which the user is looking.

The Examiner makes specific citations to Major et al. and asserts that the Major et al. reference teaches all the limitations of the claim. The assertion is respectfully traversed based on the following remarks. First, Major et al. teaches a beacon system to broadcast information that is "useful for identifying location of **the** beacon" (Col 4, line 39-40) (emphasis added). Major et al. does not teach, imply, or even suggest broadcasting information concerning a plurality of locations.

Second, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited location in Major et al. does not teach a viewing direction sensor as defined by the Applicants for the same reason as asserted above. In particular, Major et al. teaches a beacon that is "fixed in source" (Col 4, line 36) and thus does not represent a plurality of landmarks. Dependent claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and thus are allowable at least for the same reason as claim 1.

II. CLAIM ADDITIONS

Claim 29 is directed to an electronic guide system that provides the user with descriptive information of one of the landmarks at which the user is looking. A viewing direction sensor determines the direction of the user and provides the user with a relative direction to one of the landmarks. A guide system implementing this feature would be beneficial because it may allow the user to find landmarks that may be partially obstructed by fog or other such phenomena. Claim 29 finds support in the specification, page 7, lines 15-16. Thus, no new matter is presented in claim 29.

Applicants respectfully submit that the art of record does not teach or suggest utilizing the direction sensor to provide the user with a relative direction to one of the landmarks at which the user is looking. Thus, claim 32 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 30 is directed to an electronic guide system that includes a fixed-location beacon; and a viewing direction sensor that determines the direction of the user and provides the user with a relative direction of the fixed-location beacon. Claim 30 finds support in the specification, page 7, lines 25-26. Thus, no new matter is presented in claim 30.

Applicants respectfully submit that the art of record does not teach or suggest utilizing the direction sensor to provide the user with a relative direction to the fixed-location beacon. Thus, claim 30 is allowable over the art of record.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E. Scott', is written over a horizontal line.

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